

There are so many reports about the movements and probable destination of the much-talked-of Burnside Expedition that we are unable to place any reliance upon any one of them until it comes in more positive and substantial form than has so far been presented.

The report of any considerable portion of this expedition being at Hatteras seems to us to be unfounded. Nay, the report that any important part of it has yet left the Cape of the Chesapeake, stands greatly in need of confirmation, although it may be so. It is a little strange that our own papers on the coast, at Newbern and Washington, have nothing on the subject.—The *Newbern Progress* of yesterday has not a word.—The latest we can find in any paper is the following from the Norfolk *Day Book* of yesterday, which is certainly far from satisfactory, or definite:—

Plan of Operation.—Communication was had between this city and Old Point yesterday through flag of truce. On the arrival of the Selden we gathered some items among them that the Burnside Expedition was at Annapolis on Wednesday, and that no portion of the same had sailed. From another source, however, we learned that some of the vessels of the expedition had sailed. We give both statements, and the reader is at liberty to choose which he will believe.

The suggestion, however, that the expedition or a part of it may be designed to operate through Pamlico Sound against Roanoke Island, may not be without claims to attention. That island is an important point, being the key to Albemarle Sound, with its vast system of navigable rivers draining a fertile territory. But that the idea is entertained by the Lincoln forces of being able to approach Norfolk in the rear, through the Chesapeake and Albemarle canal is more than we can credit, unless we are to regard the Lincoln Generals as being less cautious or their troops more brave and reckless than the world has yet given them credit for.—We do not think that the idea of attacking from the Albemarle Sound is practicable, either by land or through the navigation, which is so easily obstructed—so capable of defence, so favorable for ambushes, that it would seem like madness for an enemy to involve himself in its swampy meanderings.

Very few of the Lincoln gun boats could pass through the canal under the most favorable circumstances, not enough for any effective purpose. There are parts of its course where no land force could possibly make its way near enough to co-operate. The Dismal Swamp canal is of course out of the question, not having depth enough for any armed boat.

Possibly something might be effected by getting up the Blackwater to the point where the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad crosses it, though this too would be found to be a hard road to travel. It is the only point that could threaten Portsmouth and the Navy Yard in the rear.

But Norfolk, or no Norfolk, Roanoke Island is highly important and so is the safety of the brave men on it, who are now under the command of General Wise, and who no doubt acquit themselves well and bravely. The people of this town will look anxiously to the Northern portion of our Coast, where many of their people are stationed at Roanoke Island, in Hyde County, and in the vicinity of Fort Macon. They will watch for anything happening there with an interest hardly second to that with which they will look to their own immediate coast.

SHAD.—The "first Shad" of the season was brought to Savannah, Ga., on Monday last, and bought by a citizen of Augusta. The landlord of the Marshall House in Savannah, treated his guests to Shad for dinner on Wednesday the 8th. This warm weather, if it keeps, will bring on the Shad and ruin the Pork. We like Shad, but we can wait. Let us save the pork.—The Shad caught in the Savannah river must have run the blockade. We trust their brethren will be equally successful in passing the squadrons at the mouth of the Cape Fear. We think their bounden duty as good Southern fish to reserve themselves for the detection of the people of the Confederate States, and to refuse to be taken and eaten by the soldiers or sailors of Mr. Lincoln.

The Raleigh *Standard* denounces certain expressions attributed to it in an extract from the Philadelphia *Enquirer*, as forgeries. It is proper to remark that in making the extract in question, we did not do so with any view of attacking the *Standard*. It is true we have dissented strongly from the course of the *Standard* on several occasions, as well as from the tone and words of many of its editorials, and we may be called upon to do so again. It appears to us that the *Standard* did more than once make use of language exceedingly like that quoted by the *Enquirer*, but not in the connection—surely not with the object or meaning attributed to it by the *Enquirer*. It is bad policy to bandy accusations of treason, but it is good policy to avoid the use of language that might even be tortured into bearing a construction favourable to the views of the enemy.

TESTAMENTS AND RELIGIOUS TRACTS FOR SOLDIERS.—We are glad to learn that Rev. A. E. Dickinson, General Superintendent of Army Chaplains, intends to establish a depository in our city, which will be well supplied with Testaments, Tracts, and other religious publications. By this arrangement our soldiers can the more easily be supplied with religious reading.

BLESSED is he that hath nothing in the way of dead hogs, for surely he that hath several is anxious and somewhat unhappy lest they "epile." If we were a porker, desirous of saving our bacon, we would re-monstrate against being knocked in the head, or having our throats cut, while the wind blew from the southwest.—Possibly we would not quite assent, no matter where the wind blew from.

SOME additional blockaders have been seen off our bars during the last few days, but not in sufficient numbers to indicate that they belonged to or formed the van-guard of any "expedition."

"The Railroad Guards."—

By some inadvertency, we have failed to notice as soon as we had intended, the fact that it is no longer true that there are officers, but no privates in this Company, which is getting up for the protection of the bridges on the line of the Wilmington and Weldon and Wilmington and Manchester Railroads, including the Roanoke Bridge at Weldon. The ranks of the Company are filling up as fast as can reasonably be expected.

We are authorized by Captain Cartwright to say, that the pay will be \$16 per month, with the usual rations and allowances for clothing, etc. The Company is intended to number one hundred. It affords a capital opening for useful employment.

THE SOUTHERN MONTHLY, for January, 1862, has been on our table for some two days, having been placed there by Mr. Whitaker, agent for this State.

Unfortunately, the delay in noticing gave the opportunity and offered the temptation to violate the cardinal canon of criticism insisted upon by Sidney Smith:—Never to read a book you contemplate reviewing, because it tends to bias the judgment. In the brief pause between getting out yesterday's Journal and commencing to get out to-day's, we glanced over some of the literary efforts in this number of the Monthly. We cannot praise and will not condemn, so that we had better bring this notice to a close. Perhaps, like the people who found fault with the poor preacher, we could not do as well ourselves, but we could never find that that consideration improved the dull sermon in the slightest degree, neither will it improve some of the namby-pamby that finds its way into print.

Daily Journal, 10th instant.

How to keep up the Army

Appears to be the subject of the gravest consideration at this time, in view of the fact that the terms of enlistment of many of the twelve-month volunteers will expire within the next six months, and all within the present year.

Sundry plans are proposed to meet this contingency. The plan of offering bounties as inducements for the twelve-month volunteers to engage for the war has already been adopted, but has yet to be tried, since but few of the men have filled out their first term, and it remains to be seen what proportion of them will re-enter the service after their terms shall have expired.

This is predicated the status of the army upon voluntary enlistment. There are not wanting those who contend that, if this war is to be a protracted one, and, however we may hope or speculate, we cannot know that it will not be so, nor can we safely act upon any other premise than that it will be, and thus be prepared to meet any contingency—there are those, we say, who contend that for a long war, voluntary enlistment cannot be depended upon. That the State should call for and command men as it does money. In plain terms, that drafting or an involuntary levy should be substituted for volunteering or voluntary enlistment. That it would be as wise for a government to depend upon voluntary contributions for the means to support a war, as it would be for it to depend upon volunteering or voluntary enlistment for the men to carry it on. We suppose this is what the Richmond *Examiner* is driving at, and that the same thing is indicated by the references made to the "French System" in the debates of the Confederate Congress.

We do not exactly know what the "French system" means. We all instinctively think of the word "conscription," when the "French system" is referred to, but the idea of a definite thing or fact is not so readily presented to our minds. We think the system is somewhat in this way:—In every commune in France lists are kept on which are inscribed the names of all the males under a certain age. Of these an average number, say three hundred thousand, annually reaches that age, being that of liability to military duty. Their names are then placed upon another list out of which the recruits for the year are to be drawn by lot. They are, in plain terms enrolled, for that is the literal meaning of conscription. Their names remain on this from their 20th to their 26th year.

Supposing the French army, on a peace footing, to number four hundred thousand men, drawn for a period of five years, it is evident that the term of service of one-fifth of these, or eighty thousand, would expire every year. But of course as it is natural to suppose that even in time of peace a certain per centage of deaths must occur, therefore those drawn each year must go to supply the losses by death equally with those by expiry of the terms of former draftings, so that probably a number equal to one-third of all the young men coming of military age in any one year are called for and drawn within that year. All the young men on the lists for any certain year are required to repair to some place within their respective districts, on some day fixed there to draw lots who shall go and who shall stay. As to the different classes according to age, the adjustment of the reserves, the inducements held out to remain in the army after the required term, and so on, we are not prepared to speak, even if time and space allowed, which they do not.

Neither do we pretend to minute accuracy in what we have already said, for we have no book or authority at hand, but we believe that we are near enough to being correct to give a fair general notion of the system. Both in this country and in England there has always existed a prejudice against—a dread of this system, as a system, and we think that now, however it might be submitted to as a temporary military necessity, there would be a jealousy of its introduction, lest it should grow into an "institution" and become a part of our permanent governmental policy.

This or something else must be done, however, or the Confederate government must relax some of its rules. Take the instance of North Carolina. She has thirty-eight regiments—we think the numbering now will reach thirty-nine, but the first volunteer regiment is out of service. Of these only ten are for the war. How many of the twelve months men will re-enlist cannot now be known.

The Governor is forced to refuse volunteers offered, because the Confederate Government will not accept any regiment for a less period than the war, unless they are tendered arms and equipped. The Governor cannot arm those offering because he has no arms to give them. All the State arms are already in hand. If he accepts companies that he cannot arm, they must be kept at the expense of the State, until, by the expiration of those now in service and their retirement, he is enabled to provide them with weapons.—If the Confederate government would modify the rule somewhat, and accept men to be placed in camps of instruction and drilled, and made ready to take up the arms that others might and will lay down, it is probable that no difficulty would be experienced in keeping up our forces. This would involve some additional expense, we know, but as little, perhaps, as any other plan that could be adopted. We feel pretty certain that with a little modification of the rules, North Carolina can keep up and increase her force of twelve months men. Without resorting to the "French System" or something like it, she cannot get out an additional force of men for a longer period.

An Outrage.

Our readers will recollect that Judge Biggs' Ordinance in the State Convention, requiring citizens, even natives of the State, to take an oath of allegiance, was rejected by a large majority. Yet we learn from a communication in the Raleigh *Standard*, that the tax collector for Columbus county has practically overruled the decision of the Convention by requiring all citizens who obeyed his summons to give in their tax lists, to swear and subscribe to their tax lists with an oath of allegiance annexed. "He was asked if he had any law for such an oath, and his reply was it made no difference." Supporting the act to be as stated, we think it does make a great difference, and that the officious officer who thus overruled the decision of the Convention for a made-lawer. The writer of the communication states that he was born and raised in this State, has lived in Columbus county for many years, as a humble farmer and a small slaveholder, and that he regarded this conduct of the officer as an outrageous assault upon himself and others. What makes the matter worse in this case is that we doubt if there is a county in the State that has sent more soldiers into the field in proportion to its white population, than Columbus, and none that in proportion to its wealth, has supplied more voluntary contributions of clothing, &c., to them. We suppose that there is scarcely a white person in the county who has not one or more near kinsmen in the army.—*Pay-Overseer.*

Col. Alfred Smith, the Tax Collector for Columbus county, above referred to, happened to be in our office a day or two since and we called his attention to this matter. He heard of it for the first time. For the first time he learned that he received tax lists. For the first time he heard of the tax collector for Columbus county, and consequently required no oaths from parties giving them in. The story is made up out of the whole cloth. The only oaths he took, he took from parties acting under him in an official capacity.

Such is the plain story, but such is not the story that is sensationalized around the State, to subvert ends which we will not now attempt to characterize, but which, if judged by the means employed to promote them, can hardly commend themselves to a people fond of fair-dealing.

It will be seen by the extract we make from the Charleston *Mercury*, that some of our officers in South Carolina had a narrow escape from the bullets of the Tennessee friends, a few days ago. Some of our young friends from Wilmington were shot through their caps and coat-sleeves, luckily "nobody hurt."

"The Wild Hunt."

Reliable parties, common report and general belief all go to assure us that the desire for office has not wholly been extinguished among the people and politicians of the Southern States by their ceasing to be united to the North, and becoming self-existing Confederates. We fear that reliable parties, common report and general belief are right. There is as much pressure for office and the hope of office at Richmond, in proportion to the number of offices to be bestowed, as ever there was at Washington. Within two months the provisional government of the Confederacy will give way to the permanent constitutional government; and although there may be little or no change in the material of which the staff is composed, legally the commission of every office will expire with the government under which he held it, so that the permanent civil staff, together with the official rank and file, must be appointed and commissioned or re-commissioned this spring, there being none now in existence whose tenure, except permissively, extends beyond the first of March.

It is known that under the Confederate constitution the tenure of office is indefinite—that if you once get hold of a piece of red tape, you are bound to keep hold of it as long as you please, and if any one pretends to turn you out, all your friends may legally demand the cause; and have an investigation and all that, all amounting in fact to a life tenure in office. This being the case, of course all those who have "piously" tasted the sweets of office and emolument, or who have long contemplated such afar, with open mouth and dripping chops, will be *thar*, to get an office into which, as into a German *Chancery*, suit, they may retire for the balance of their natural lives, and by a little management, bequeath it to their descendants or next of kin.

But it must not be supposed that these gentlemen would be wholly opposed to rotation in office. They are not. What they are opposed to is their own case in rotation out of office. They are willing to rotate in office as much as you please, provided the rotation is to be performed from one good office to another better.—This is certainly a great and conclusive evidence of patriotism, not to be forgotten or overlooked. A good many of these old professionals have rotated from their desks at Washington to other desks at Richmond, and there are not wanting those who insinuate a belief that if nothing else interfered to prevent them, and a proper opportunity were offered to rotate back profitably, their consciences would not be so unreasonable as not to listen to reason, and politely yield to the requirements of the "situation."

We may regret this overweening desire for office, but perhaps part of it is due to the fact that so many of the usual avenues of trade and occupation are closed—so many branches of mercantile business suspended, that large numbers of men competent for the intelligent discharge of clerical or departmental duties are thrown out of employment, and, as the expression goes, must do something. To whatever cause it is to be attributed, it exists, and we might as well attempt to bale out the Cape Fear with a pitch-fork, as to stop it with steel pens and printers' ink. Perhaps it is all right.

What we would say is this:—All Confederate officers, now in office, are simply provisional. This, all who are fond of office-hunting already know, and therefore, by calling attention to the fact, we run no risk of starting more on the track. It is a matter for the people, where they have peculiar preferences or peculiar objections, founded upon actual knowledge and experience as to fitness or unfitness, to use means to make their wishes known and felt, before permanent appointments are made, which cannot be easily revoked, nor impromptu appointees so easily got rid of; as, practically, Confederate appointments are irremovable, there being so many agreeable or disagreeable shades between a first class, pleasant office, and one who has reached that point of tangible violation of official duty which alone can sustain his being turned out of office.

A Long War or a Short War—Other Things there-with Connected.

People have been and are divided in their opinions as to the probable relative effects of making the existing war of Southern independence a short and decisive contest, or a longer and more protracted struggle. We say the effects—not the policy, for we cannot suppose that for a mere problematical advantage, any skillful and conscientious pilot would keep the ship of state beating about, exposed to the accidents and contingencies of a fierce storm, if he could at once carry her into a secure and peaceful haven. Whatever speculations we may indulge in as to the probable results of a long war, the policy of our country must obviously be, to secure an early and honorable peace. Such a peace as will be indeed a peace and not a mere truce. Such a peace as will leave nothing to mere construction, for we have tried that enough in the Union—we have, because of being deceived in our faith and dependence upon the North in such matters, been forced to place all upon the hazard of the die. When making a new peace with the North, outside of the Union, it would be folly for us to allow the seeds of fresh difficulty to be planted on what ought to be the grave of former hostilities.

It is, of course, our policy to aim at an early peace upon the conditions above referred to, but whether we can secure it or not, is another question. That it will come and must come finally, we can have no doubt. In the meantime, as the war may come to a close at a comparatively early day, or may be protracted to an indefinite period, it may be as well to look at the matter with reference to the relative effects of a brief or a long-continued struggle.

It has been feared that if the war should come to an end too soon, before actual war had drawn a line of blood between the sections, before compulsory non-intercourse had taught the South to depend upon herself, separation might be more apparent than real. The South might win her political independence indeed, but be still held in commercial and financial vassalage to the North, and the work of revolution remain half-done, with only a record of sacrifices endured without any realization of advantages secured. That this premature peace will be patched up, there is now little fear. Already the looks of the people are averted, and their hearts turned away from their former idols at the "Great Norrard"; the course of the public and private men of that section and of its government has opened men's eyes. Why, look at the list of transports in the Burnside expedition in to-day's Journal, and see how many captains of the transports used to trade to this town and be such good friends of the South. And yet these men would early stone to close our harbor, or pilot Lincoln's gunboats to reduce our town to ashes. The thing is working fast enough. "Our Northern brethren" are showing their brotherly feelings fast enough to emancipate the Southern people effectually from all foolish deference to or affection for them or for their ideas.

We think there need be no fear of the war closing before the feelings of the citizens of the two sections, as sections, are as far apart as either section is from England or France; yea farther apart. That there will be individual exceptions we have no doubt, but under any circumstances there have been and there will be enough of war to effectually separate, and keep separate the sections, until their natural and inherent differences shall have crystallized into independent national life.

But the question will remain as to commercial, manufacturing, and financial operations. Has enough been or, if an early peace is made, will enough be done to stop up the old channels and open up new ones more direct, more healthful, and more fertilizing to the South? The answer to these questions must depend upon circumstances, and a consideration of these circumstances involves the possible entry of other than the present combatants into the arena. Thus, we think that a

peace now or soon made with the North by the voluntary consent of that section, would be premature and calculated to deprive us of many of the resulting benefits of the war, whereas a peace brought about, not by a single intervention, but by the participation of other parties on their own account, might not be liable to that objection.

The chance for an early peace exists in the fact that, for their own sake, European powers, to wit, France or England, or both, will become involved with the North. It is evident that the first effort of the foreign maritime power would be to raise the blockade of the Southern ports. The result of this would be to open to us the direct trade to Europe—to give us the opportunity, and restrict us to that opportunity of direct trade. All the time that our blockade might be raised by the action of governments at war with the North would be so much time employed in forming commercial and financial relations with our real customers on the other side of the water. People may say what they please about foreign intervention, but it is plain to us that six months of war, after the blockade had been virtually raised, compelling the South and Europe to meet face to face, dispensing with Northern intermediaries, would be worth uncounted millions to the future commerce of the South. This can only be done by British or French fleets. We want to see that done, and we think we will see it, sooner or later. By the time it is done our manufactures will have attained, perhaps, as much development as they reasonably can without additional facilities, which the breaking of the blockade alone can bring them.

We must confess then, that we would regard the entry of a third party on the scene, breaking the blockade, as much to be desired, its inevitable result being the establishment of direct trade and financial independence. At any rate or under any circumstances, political independence must eventually come by the unaided exertions of the South herself, but at the cost of great sacrifices—at the risk of elevating the military over the civil power, if not legally, at least *de facto*, and of retarding the education of a large portion of the general citizen entering on the stage during the pending of the contest.

The New Orleans *Delta*, in order to guard against contingencies, has been forced to come down to a half-sheet, as a temporary arrangement.

From the London Herald, (Derby organ) December 14.

At the commencement of the message the President refers to foreign countries generally in terms which we cannot regard as dignified, and which appear to us unbecomingly.

It is first intimated that the "disloyal" citizens of the Union may have invoked foreign aid and intervention. The term "disloyal" is manifestly inapplicable to any of the members of a confederation of States. It begs the whole constitutional question at issue between North and South. We have next an obscure statement of the probable motives and conduct of foreign nations that might thus be invoked. Nations thus tempted to interfere are not always able to resist the councils of seeming expediency and ungenerous ambition, although measures adopted under such influences seldom fail to be unfortunate and injurious to those adopting them. Mr. Lincoln now makes a jump from the position that such assistance may have been asked, to the statement that it has been asked. "The disloyal citizens of the United States, who have offered the ruin of our country in return for the aid and comfort which they have invoked abroad, have received his patronage and encouragement than they probably expected." And why not? No feeling of justice or sense of international obligations, it seems, can possibly influence the decision of these foreign courts. All that they think of is their own immediate interest. To them that they may be expected to throw overboard all moral and social obligations. What else can possibly be implied in the following sentence, in which it is lamely sought to transfer to the South the odium of the slur that is cast upon the honor of the European nations: "If it were just to assume that foreign nations, in this case, discarding all moral, social, and treaty obligations, would set solely and selfishly for the most speedy restoration of commerce, including especially the acquisition of cotton, those nations appear as yet not to have seen their way to their object more directly or clearly through the destruction than through the preservation of the Union."

This sneering if not insulting language can only be understood to apply to France and England. They are not, therefore, surprised at the indignant remarks which have been elicited from the press in Paris by the passages which we have quoted from Mr. Lincoln's message. The intention disclosed by the government organ in New York to put a heavy duty upon imports from France, "that the providence of American prosperity may feel an interest in sustaining it," is not likely to add to the good feeling of our neighbors to the North. Government, having already laid more on its hands than it can manage, seems ready to put upon irritating all the world, and driving it, whether it will or no, to espouse the Southern side of the quarrel.

These statements are incorrect, and these inferences are unfair. We do not believe that the South has petitioned for the aid of any foreign nation. Mr. Davis has stated the contrary, and he knows that the North should determine on going to war with England or France, any trust in either would be useless. For ourselves, we early declared our neutral position, and in any respect we have departed from our programme, it has been in favor of the North. We have recognized an effective blockade, which has crippled Southern commerce, recognition in variance with the law of nations. In our view, the rights of the South have been shipped from England to the North, while similar supplies to the South have been seized up by Federal cruisers. We have not recognized the government of the South, although, as a *de facto* government, it has had a fair claim to our acknowledgment. The South might argue that we have departed from our neutrality cases where it can be difficult to maintain it. Generally our government has acted up to its light, and been as impartial as it can. If the James Adger has been allowed to refit in our ports, so in its turn has the Nashville. If the Confederate captain had seized upon General Scott while a passenger in the Dover packet, of course we should have demanded reparation for the outrage. No other course was open to us when we heard that four Southern gentlemen had been forcibly abducted from the mail steamer Trent, newspaper articles, votes of Congress, and reports of the Navy Department notwithstanding. Mr. Lincoln will have to choose between a prompt surrender of his captives and the alternative of a war, which will annihilate America on the sea, and do her some mischief on land, and may at the same time settle forever the great question of secession.

ANOTHER AND STILL WORSE CASE.—The recent capture, by a United States ship of war, of Mr. J. W. Zacharie, of this city, and of Mr. Rogers, of Texas, on the British ship *Eugenie Smith*, on her voyage from Havana to Matamoros, is a still more flagrant instance of the violation of neutral rights and of the honor and immunity of the British flag than that of the Trent. The *Eugenie Smith* was bound from one neutral port to another. Her cargo consisted of such goods as are usually shipped to Mexican ports. The Rio Grande being a neutral stream, she had the right to enter it, and all persons on board were under the protection of the English flag. Messrs. Zacharie and Rogers were private citizens of the Confederate States, engaged on no business of the Government, having no employment or agency in connection with it. Their arrest is a flagrant wrong and insult to the British flag and to the parties who deemed themselves safe under its folds. N. O. Delta.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "PERSON" AND A GENTLEMAN, OR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEWARD AND LORD LYONS.—Seward, in his letter to Lord Lyons says: "The four persons in question are now held in military custody at Fort Warren, in the State of Massachusetts. They will be cheerfully liberated. Your Lordship will please indicate a time and place for receiving them." (How perfectly as Davy Crockett would have said.) Lord Lyons replies:—"I will without delay do myself the honor (the honor) this is strictly diplomatic language but we already suspect that his Lordship indulges in irony, and yet so intends it in the present case) to be made for delivery to the four gentlemen to me in order that they may be placed under the protection of the British flag."

The steamer which has arrived at New Orleans, is the Black Joker, freighted chiefly with powder for the Confederate Government. This is reliable.—*Char. Courier.*

Correspondence of the Mobile Advertiser. Interesting Particulars of the Last Bombardment at Washington—How the Fight Commenced, and how it Ended.

BARRANCOES, Jan. 2, 1862.

A few days ago, permission was granted the little propeller Cushman, vulgarly known as the "snorter," to trade between the Navy Yard and Pensacola. She started, yesterday, on her first trip, and about 2 1/2 o'clock, P. M., made fast to the Central wharf, being the first vessel that had made that point since the bombardment of November. She had been at the wharf only a few minutes when a half-dozen shots from the enemy were thrown at her from the guns at Fort Pickens and the batteries on the Island. She lost no time in quitting the wharf for the city, where she arrived without injury. Capt. West, of the Louisiana Infantry, fired a single shot, and without orders, in return. Half an hour later orders from Brig. Gen. Richard H. Anderson—commanding in the absence of Gen. Bragg—were despatched to the various batteries to concentrate their fire on the camps and troops on the Island. The order was promptly executed by the batteries of Capt. West, Bachelor, Wheat, Taylor, and Lieut. Mader, of the Louisiana Infantry, by Capt. Baker, Power, and the entire line of the batteries of the 1st Alabama Regt. Harassing Fort Barrancas, and by the guns of the 36th Georgia and Mississippi Regts., reaching beyond and embracing Fort McRee. The fire from these guns was almost deafening, and far exceeding in rapidity that of the action of November.

The Yankees were soon dispersed in every direction, some seeking safety in holes, others behind sand hills, while by far the greater number took to their heels, flying to the shore and the celebrated rascals of Billy Wilson, once the same locality. These troops were supposed to be a Massachusetts regiment and some New York volunteers—the latter, however, I will do the credit to say, behaved much better, and towards night, after their fright had subsided, frequently cheered what they considered good shots at our batteries. Whether any of them were killed we have no means of ascertaining; but their tents and camp were knocked into the middle of January, certain. After the dispersion of these regiments, the guns of the Louisiana Infantry were principally directed against Fort Pickens and the batteries East of her.

The Alabama and Georgia Regiments, about the same time, commenced on the batteries of Fort McRee, shooting away with their colors and damaging the guns of Pickens. Through almost the entire night our guns kept up at regular intervals their fire. The scene was grand beyond conception—the shells, in their screaming and screaming journey, resembling startled meteors coursing the heavens. About 12 o'clock several buildings in Warrington were fired, the flames lighting up the yard and the village, and forts, and batteries, presenting a scene grand as the bombardment which perpetuates the name of Anderson and the birth day of the new year.

We have suffered no loss of life or limb, nor sustained any injury in guns.

Gen. Bragg arrived from his Mobile visit this morning about 4 o'clock.

There is little likelihood of any more firing—no injury can be inflicted on the enemy, nor can he harm us.

From the Charleston Mercury, 9th inst.

The War on the Seacoast.—Our Casualties on New Year's Day.

Owing to the unusual restriction which Gen. Lee has placed upon the troops, in respect to the communication of intelligence to the newspapers, it is with no little difficulty that we have been able to keep our readers posted, from day to day, in regard to the events transpiring along the coast. Yesterday we succeeded in obtaining the following full list of the casualties among our troops in the fight which took place on New Year's day. The names of the gallant men who fell on that occasion, have not before been published:

CASUALTIES IN THE BATTLES OF NEW YEAR'S DAY.

COMPANY K, CAPT. WEST.—Killed—Privates A. B. Smith, P. M. Riser, Wounded—Lieut. Asa Bowditch, sergeant E. A. Roach, Corporal Holt, Brooks, Privates E. D. Merchant, M. Plymate, Joel Minnick, Caleb Hare.

COMPANY G, CAPT. WEST.—Wounded—Ergent George Weathe all.

COMPANY F, CAPT. BROWN.—Killed—Lieut. J. H. Powers, Private S. L. C. H. Garrett, E. B. Haik.

COMPANY G, CAPT. TAGGART.—Wounded—Sam'l Cethorn.

COMPANY H, CAPT. GRIFF.—Killed—Corporal James E. Bailey, Private Daniel J. James, Wounded—Lieut. David C. Corporal James C. Bailey, Privates Peter Day, Calvin, Costman, John Joulin.

COMPANY I, CAPT. CAMPBELL.—Wounded—L. A. William L. Stevens, Corporal Noah J. Werts, Private Ransom Timmerman. Total killed and wounded 27.

On Monday, so far as known in the city, all was quiet at the various points.

On Monday night the pickets on Mackay's Point, on what is known as Graham's Neck, which has been previously alluded to by us, discovered a boat in the Coosawatchie River. After halting it without getting an answer, our Tennessee friends commenced an active fusillade, which caused the crew and passengers of the unknown boat to beat a hasty retreat. It has since been ascertained that the party fired in was Colonel Radcliffe, with some of the officers of his North Carolina Regiment. They were in imminent danger; the balls struck the boat repeatedly; one man had his hat shot from his head, and another had a bullet through his coat sleeve. As soon as the boat touched the marsh, they jumped out and waded and swam to the main land. It is said that the party fired in was, we believe, a graduate of the Citadel, reached his headquarters in very scanty attire. Our pickets, like the main body of our army, are "musing their wrath to keep it warm," and after "retreat" it is rather dangerous work to put one's nose beyond the lines.

With regard to the removal of the negroes from within the military lines, it is said that many of the planters, having every confidence in their slaves, and being unable, on so short notice, to provide comfortable homes for them, have left them on their plantations, where they have shelter and ample support. Some of these homesteads are important strategic points, and as *Coffee* and *Sambo* are not particular who they talk to and what they talk about, so they can talk the enemy cultivate their acquaintance by purchasing their hogs and poultry, and, in this way, learn many things which they would not otherwise know. *Coffee* and *Sambo* pull their wool to all white persons, and it is thought that the Charleston *Mercury* is frequently sold by the newsmen on the roads to some over-obliging darkey, who is on an errand, not from his master, but from some epauletted Yankee, who has advanced a quarter for the service.

The Charleston and Savannah Railroad is the military backbone of our tide water districts. Without it, General Lee could never have progressed in his arrangements for defense, and the city which has enabled him to stand so long, would have been abandoned. He has already to pronounce with confidence upon the safety of Savannah and Charleston. By looking at the excellent map published by Evans & Cogswell, it can be seen at a glance, that this Road is the main artery, along which the never-ending supplies of Quartermaster's, Commissary and Ordnance stores, are delivered within easy access of the hundred camps which dot the sea-board strip of the South, and in St. Andrew's, St. Paul's, St. George's, Dorchester, St. Bartholomew's, since William's, St. Helena's, St. Luke's, and St. Peter's Parishes. Along this Railway are established the several depots, from which the army is fed, clothed, transported, and furnished with ammunition; and, when General Lee is blazing along on a special train, escorted by twenty-five miles an hour, doubtless, he involuntarily thanks his stars, that he is no longer among the rugged and pathless wilds of Western Virginia—than which it would be hard to imagine a place better adapted to wither the laurels of any military leader, in these times of steam and telegraph. The *Atlantic* on this Railroad are all accommodated and agreeable. Even the "colored persons" who put on the brakes, are polite and attentive.

Arrival of the Burnside Expedition in Pamlico Sound.

From the Norfolk *Day Book*, of yesterday, we copy the following:

Information reached this city last evening to the effect that a Federal fleet had made its appearance in Pamlico Sound.

The fleet consists of 20 gun-boats, drawing from five to six feet of water, and carrying, some of them, five guns.

They were first discovered by Capt. Hooper, who, while reconnoitering, was shot at by them. On this turn to the island he reported the fact, and our forces proceeded at once to place themselves in a state of readiness for an attack.

This is supposed to be a portion of the Burnside expedition, and it is thought, by some, that its object is to prepare for an attack upon our coast. However this may be, one thing is certain, and that is, should this be their programme, they will find it a hard to travel before they get to the end of it.

FOR ALL SPOTTED.—The Federal steamer that was reported being used as a store of coal for the blockade, turns out to be a British brig. She simply got aground and it was thought would get off safely with little or no damage. This spoils a few lot of fun that our boys expected to have.—*Newbern Progress.*

BY TELEGRAPH.

FOR THE JOURNAL.